



Anna G. Eshoo
14th Congressional District of California

To the Editor of the *Washington Post*,

We read with great interest Carole Sugarman's article "A Taste of Food Poisoning," (July 5, 2005).

As Ms. Sugarman notes, her daughter Anna's experience with salmonellosis was not unique. With 76 million illnesses and 5,000 deaths caused by foodborne illnesses annually, we could be doing much more to reduce the presence of Salmonella and even more deadly pathogens in our food, if only Congress would act.

In 2003, the National Academy of Sciences called on the Congress to grant the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) clear authority to establish and enforce standards to reduce the presence of deadly pathogens in meat and poultry. Together with Senators Tom Harkin and Arlen Specter, we responded by introducing legislation (*Kevin's Law*) to give the USDA this much-needed authority. Named for Kevin Kowalczyk, a 2 ½ year-old boy who died after ingesting the deadly O157:H7 strain of *e.coli*, this bill has been pending in Congress for over four years with no action.

To help prevent other Annas and Kevins from suffering, *Kevin's Law* deserves, at the very least, a hearing.

Thank you for calling attention to this critical issue through Carole Sugarman's important story.

Sincerely,

/s

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/s

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